## A woman's Unique Heart



Presented by:
Jyoti Shah, M.D., Chief, Radiology Service
VA New Jersey Health Care System



- Heart Disease is the leading killer & disabler of American women.
- Each year approximately 2.5 million women nationwide are hospitalized for cardiac illness and 500,000 of these women die.
- Women are twice as likely to die from heart disease than all other cancers combined.
- More women who have heart attacks die within a year compared to men and 39% of women do not survive the first attack!
- At least one in every two women can expect to have serious heart trouble in their lifetime.
- Women with heart disease have different symptoms than men and respond differently to methods of treatment.



- Women with heart disease are often misdiagnosed or diagnosed late in the process of their disease.
- The death rate from heart disease is 69% higher in African American women than white women.
- √ 50% of heart attacks among middle aged women are attributable to tobacco. The risk of heart attack begins to decline within months of smoking cessation, reaching the level of persons who have never smoked within 3-5 years.
- As women age their risk of developing heart disease increases.
- Diabetic women have 3-7 times greater risk of developing heart disease than non-diabetic women.



- 1/3 of adult women are obese and 60% of women have no regular physical activity. Most studies suggest that active women have a 50% risk reduction in developing heart disease.
- Women may experience little or no chest pain when having a heart attack.
- Women who smoke and take oral contraceptives increase their risk of heart disease 30-fold.
- Chewing a 325 milligram aspirin in the early stages of a heart attack has shown to improve the survival in both men and women.
- High triglycerides are more powerful predictors of risk in women than men, especially after women reach the age 50.